

NPIC/D-97-70

24 JAN 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, DIAAP-9

SUBJECT : PI Key - Ground Forces Installations, Communist China

1. Since receipt of your requirement in January 1970 for production of a PI Key on Ground Forces Installations, Communist China, the Center has reviewed its present and prospective capacity for scheduling such production. It has not been possible for the Production Services Group, NPIC, to commence work on this project.
2. The outlook is bleak for coping with this kind of PI Key production in any reasonable period of time, without detracting from more pressing national services. The anticipated workload for the Center in 1971 is expected to increase while resources remain at present levels. This will restrict further the Center's capacity for meeting such requirements.
3. As a result of reviewing the considerable time, effort and cost involved in production of PI Keys according to the format required, I have developed doubts about that format being the most effective and economical approach relative to the purposes to be achieved. The Center is considering what other kinds of approaches might serve. We plan to present to the DoD Key Committee in the near future such alternate ways of meeting the need.
4. In view of the Center's lack of capacity for producing these kinds of PI Keys in the foreseeable future, I am returning the draft materials of the PI Key on Ground Forces Installations, Communist China.



Executive Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Distribution:

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1 - Chairman, PODKEYCOM  
1 - Chief, DIAXX  
1 - D/IAS  
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1 - Chairman, EXSUBCOM  
1 - Chairman, COMIREX  
1 - NPIC/PPBS  
2 - NPIC/ODIR

Declass Review  
by NIMA/DOD

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Hanks:

At an "NPIC COMIREX" meeting  
IEG brought up the subject of PI  
Keys - They clearly understand that  
[ ] said NPIC shall not engage  
in PI Key production but 2 facts  
raised the issue in their minds:

- (a) The DOD efforts along this line  
(they had a rep. listening) together with  
the NTP is raising community interest -
- (b) IEG (although they do not want Keys  
per se since they use the "boxful of data"  
approach) feels they have "expertise"  
(largely in the heads of individuals) which  
they feel would be of

(DATE)

(b) Cont. Apparently the retirement of  
going with them e.g. [redacted]  
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In any event - I have told IEG to  
send us a "status" statement on the  
P1 Key matter so we can look at the  
pros & cons -

I have not been concerned to date -  
knowing [redacted] edict & have been waiting  
for requirements to come in to the PPB  
at which time we could reject them (& get  
a COMIBEX reassignment of NTP responsibilities  
or (if warranted) get [redacted] to reconsider -

The IEG paper is timely because  
it looks as though COMIBEX has expected us  
to proceed under the general NTP direction  
without specific requirements  
My favorite alterations - [redacted]  
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6 Feb 70

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Ch, PPBS

Ch, IEG

Ch, PSG

Ch, TSSG

Re Color PI Keys

I do not understand why there is so much talk going around about producing "Color PI Key" during the foreseeable future (next year?) when we have such a long way to go to before we feel confident in requesting and using color coverage efficiently and productively. If the idea is to produce a Key on the order of the black & white film Keys I am familiar with -- then, who?

Please advise me. In the meantime, Center officers should ask searching questions of anyone talking about

#  
a need for producing a color Key. What kind of Key are they talking about, how detailed, how extensive, how soon, and why, why, why?

At the same time, you and your officers are free to indicate that the Center recognizes that there is a need for establishing technical color standards (film, color descriptions, equipment for exploiting color film, etc.), and we are initiating several development programs for doing so, as a service of common concern.

